



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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BARNESTON RECEIVES NEW SIREN

Lincoln, Neb., May 13--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded in mid April, \$6,400 in grant funds to the Village of Barneston. The USDA grant funds, in conjunction with \$12,100 furnished by the Gage County Emergency Management will provide the financing needed for a new emergency warning system for the community of 122 rural residents.

Roger Meeks, rural development specialist for Nebraska USDA Rural Development stated, "The new siren system is greatly needed as the community's existing warning system is no longer operable and repairs are not an option due to the unavailability of parts."

This project was coordinated between the Village, Gage County Emergency Management Agency and the Barneston Fire Department. The siren located along Grand Street between Fifth and Sixth streets will be compatible with the county's system so that Gage County Emergency Management can trigger the siren to sound from remote locations and Beatrice. The new siren will allow the village to provide an advanced warning system for adverse weather conditions and emergencies.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture serving the needs of rural communities unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere, to help them finance needed facilities. In some cases, USDA Rural Development guarantees repayment of loans made by private lenders.

The grant funds were provided through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant Program. For additional information contact USDA Rural Development Specialist Roger Meeks at 6030 South 58th Street Suite B, Lincoln, NE 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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